

Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services

CARES Background and Secretary's Decision 2004 for Perry Point, MD VAMC

Presentation to Local Advisory Panel



CARES History and Background



- A March 1999 GAO report concluded that if VHA restructured its capital assets it could significantly reduce the operating and maintenance costs of its facilities
- In response VHA initiated development of the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Program
- The CARES process was piloted in VISN 12 (Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison and parts of Michigan) using a contractor to objectively assess health care needs and recommend optimal Service Delivery Options

CARES History and Background Cont'd



- **CARES Phase II extended the CARES Program to all 21 Networks within VHA**
- **Phase II relied primarily upon VA staff and resources to develop the Network CARES Market Plans**
- **The Undersecretary for Health used the Networks CARES Market Plans to prepare a Draft National CARES Plan (DNCP) with recommendations to the Secretary.**
- **After review by the Secretary, the final DNCP was submitted to the CARES Commission in August 2003.**

CARES History and Background Cont'd



- **The Secretary appointed a National Commission of non-VA executives to review the DNCP to provide an objective and external perspective**
- **The Commission made recommendations to the Secretary to consider in his review of the draft National CARES Plan**
- **The final report of the CARES Commission was submitted in February 2004, and the Secretary announced his decision in May 2004**

Secretary's May 2004 Decision Document for Perry Point VAMC



- The Perry Point campus is situated on 364 acres of land, much of which is underused or vacant.
- While some buildings on the campus have been recently renovated, others are in dire need of repair, including the nursing home, which is almost 80 years old.
- While the mission of the Perry Point VAMC will remain unchanged, the Master Plan will propose an efficient, cost-effective, and appropriately sized design that will reduce vacant and underused space

Secretary's May 2004 Decision Document for Perry Point VAMC



on the campus and include modernization of patient care buildings to meet current and anticipated needs.

- **The plan will include construction of a replacement nursing home.**